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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal spirit, King of kings, and Lord of lords, we thank You today for the gift of this opportunity to serve You and country. Give us the wisdom to invest our lives in things that flourish beyond our lifetime.

Lord, guide our lawmakers. May the reality of their accountability to You prompt them to live their lives for Your glory. Empower our Senators to listen to the whisper of conscience as they labor for liberty. May their first priority be to stay within the circle of Your loving providence.

Lord, give all of us the power to fulfill Your purposes for our lives. We pray in your powerful name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert Stewart Ballou, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

KENTUCKY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, this past weekend, the people of Kentucky endured significant severe weather. The storms that ripped through the Commonwealth on Friday caused mass power outages, localized flooding, and high winds that reached up to 75 miles an hour. At least one tornado was recorded in west Kentucky.

Sadly, the storms have taken the lives of five Kentuckians. Elaine and I send our deepest condolences to the families who are grieving their lost loved ones. My office has been in close contact with Governor Beshear's team and local officials across the State. Emergency response efforts are work-

ing overtime to ensure those impacted have the resources to make a rapid recovery.

At peak, there were more than half a million households without power. I am grateful to the linemen and chainsaw teams that have tirelessly worked around the clock to restore power throughout the State. A number of school districts remain closed today as power restoration efforts continue.

So thank you to all the first responders who have graciously deployed without hesitation. The generosity and resilience on display in the on-the-ground operations have been truly inspiring. Throughout the Commonwealth, Kentuckians are rolling up their sleeves to help where they can, whether it is assisting clean-up efforts with chainsaws in hand or opening their homes to those in need. Kentuckians have both big hearts and hard knuckles, and together, we will get through.

My prayers are with all the storm victims and their families, and I stand ready to assist with our swift recovery in the days ahead.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Now, Madam President, on an entirely different matter, a number of Senate Republican colleagues and I recently met with America's allies and partners across Europe and the Middle East. I spoke last week about our message to NATO and our friends in Europe. How the West confronts Russia's invasion of Ukraine today will shape the future with respect to, not just Russia, but China and Iran as well.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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